

## Meeting Minutes

**Meeting:** ABAC

**Date:** May 17, 2017

**Time:** 7:30 – 9:15 PM

**Attendees:** Executive board members: Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Doug Greenfield, Ron Sender, Phil Goff, Elizabeth Shea  
Advisory members and other attendees: Nat Strosberg, Rod Holland, Maggie Stanley, Doug Mayo-Wells, Joey Glushko, Steve Conroy (COBWEB officer), Adam MacNeill, Emily Snyder

**Meeting minutes:** Attendees reviewed the minutes from the April 19, 2017 ABAC meeting. Ron had sent edits and requested some clarifications. The minutes will be amended and resubmitted for committee approval prior to the June ABAC meeting.

**Cobweb discussion:** The Cobweb officer, Steve Conroy, asked about the timing of the upcoming Arlington bike tour. He also discussed the truck that had hit The Bikeway bridge over Grove St., noting that the structure is o.k.

**TAC report:** Christopher provided updates sent from Scott: the Arlington DPW is aiming to complete the bike crossing of Massachusetts Ave. at Swan Place, with new HAWK lights operational by May 26. A video will be available for educating the community about the lights.

The members of TAC were invited to the Arlington bike tour and the upcoming ABAC social. TAC meeting attendees noted that there is a 5K running race scheduled for the same day as the bike tour. ABAC attendees noted that there may be some confusion in the town email that went out about the race and the closure of the bike path. Nat will send a new email announcing the bike tour and will confirm that town management is aware of the bike tour.

**New bike box in Arlington Center:** Attendees discussed the new bike box that has been painted in the eastbound lane of Massachusetts Ave, providing a space for cyclists to wait to cross Route 60. The group discussed the placement of the box: it is positioned well ahead of where the cars stop and thus allows cyclists to get out ahead of the traffic and take the lane. Yet, some feel that it is so far into the intersection that it may make cyclists vulnerable to traffic turning from the opposite direction on Massachusetts Ave onto Pleasant St. Several attendees reported that people appear to be using the bike box as intended, however, it may be confusing for Bikeway users who are neither regular commuters nor familiar with the intersections. There may be a need for arrows, directing people how to use the box. Attendees agreed to continue to pay attention to how people are using and responding to the new design. Christopher requested the Cobweb officer to continue to observe and report on it as well.

**Bikeshare:** Nat reported that three communities have now signed contracts for a bikeshare program. Motivate, which is coordinating the process, will be requesting sponsorship commitments from primary sponsors by late summer. The process for researching and implementing a bikeshare program is going more slowly than anticipated.

Regarding funding, the question of public funding in Arlington (in addition to sponsorship) was raised. Nat reported that town funding is being discussed as a serious option. Brookline was also cited as an example that received federal funding to get the program started.

Nat also reported that he had a discussion with Nicole Freedman of Newton, who mentioned other technologies that are being used for bike sharing (for example, not fixed station locations), as well as electric bike options.

**Spring bike counts:** The bike counts are to take place Saturday May 27 and Tuesday May 30. Nat reported that the counts are close to being fully booked with volunteers. Nat will follow up with an additional email.

**Art on The Bikeway:** Samples were included in the Advocate this week.

**Bikeway Anniversary Celebration and Annual Social:** Annual social is planned for Monday, May 22. Alan McLellen is to be the speaker. The event will also include the formal presentation of the renewed bronze-level Bicycle Friendly award from The League of American Bicyclists. The anniversary celebration planning is underway, with an upcoming meeting May 18. The possibility of food trucks for the anniversary meeting is to be discussed with the anniversary planning committee.

**Tour of Arlington:** Plan is in place for 9:30, Sunday May 21.

**Spring cleanup:** Phil reported the EALs cleanup along Alewife Brook worked out very well. Attendees discussed the current condition of the Minuteman Bikeway and generally agreed to consider returning to a spring cleanup next year.

**Bikeway crossing at Lake St.:** Elizabeth reported that there have been two meetings of the design review committee. Jason Sobel of Green International is being recommended as the designer for the project. There will be a public review at 25% design and 75% design. Elizabeth noted that the designer and review committee had discussed design features directions that would encourage cyclists to slow down before the intersection. ABAC members noted the importance of considering bikes with trailers in those design decisions and noted the Woburn St crossing in Lexington as an example of a problematic design.

**Vision 2020:** Nat reported that the results are still being tallied. He is hopeful that the results will be available before the next ABAC meeting.

**Bike parking maps:** The Arlington Disability Commission had requested an inventory of bike racks in town. Phil is to address next month.

**New bike rack installed in Uncle Sam park:** Jack noticed that a bike rack was installed in such a way that if someone parks a bike there, the bike would block the path. Christopher will take a picture and investigate who put it there.

**Next Tri Town Meeting:** Tri-town bike committees are due for their next meeting. Two dates in June are to be proposed (to follow the June ABAC meeting). The meeting will be in Arlington; the senior center was proposed. The agenda is to include signage (granite mile markers); thus ABAC June agenda to include signage to discuss response to signage issues.

**Email list:** ABAC was using an email list that was hosted by Topica. But in 2014 Topica shut down. Attendees discussed using google groups. Doug M volunteered to set it up and send invitations. Rod volunteered to be the moderator. Attendees agreed that the list should be structured so that only owners can send messages (thus, requiring little effort for moderators).